Book Trust brought out around 250 titles exclusively for children in various languages during the 14th World Book Fair. These included 14 fresh titles and 51 new translations besides reprints of many important and popular titles.

(b) At the 14th World Book Fair, NBT set up a theme pavilion which included (i) World of Children's Books Exhibitions from all over the country and world, (ii) a one-stop shop for Indian children's books in Hindi and English and (iii) an activity centre for book-related children's activities such as workshops, competitions, story-telling sessions, creative writing workshops, etc. There was a library corner set up for children to browse through books and also for adults to become members of a scheme to start neighbourhood libraries. To promote book mindedness among children, NBT also organised a seminar which explored vital areas of the field of the children's literature including promotion of book mindedness and setting up of rural libraries.

(c) Neither the Ministry nor the National Book Trust, India is aware of BBC's report. However, Foreign publishers of children's books do usually attract attention of the public initially due to their strong emphasis on production quality with several add-ons which make their products more saleable. However, it is also a fact that there was an overwhelming demand for Indian books in Hindi and English as large volume of these were sold during the fair.

Career Advancement for Lecturers and Sr. Lecturers

4353. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that benefits of career advancement to Lecturers, Sr. Lecturers etc. in terms of new scheme of revised scales of pay has not been made available from 1st January, 1996 as agreed upon by Government in the agreement with AIFUCTO dated 5th September, 1998;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not ended the dual emoluments for Readers, inspite of a positive recommendation from UGC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) The Government has advised State Governments to implement the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for University and College teachers

w.e.f. 27-7-98 i.e. from the date of notification of the Scheme of revision of pay scales by the Ministry, the question of implementation of CAS w.e.f. 1-1-1996 has been considered in consultation with UGC and representatives of Teachers' Federations. The proposal in this behalf will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration and approval soon.

(b) and (c) The matter is being examined in consultation with Ministry of Finance and UGC. Appropriate action in this behalf will be taken in due course.

Vocational Training in Schools

4354. DR. RAJA RAMANNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, for a long time, considered the need for vocational training in schools but the craze for university degrees has led to loss of good workmen in professions such as carpentry, welding, etc.; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider steps to improve the quality of Indian goods, equal to or better than those of foreign countries, through a programme of training to produce highly trained vocational workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) The need for diversifying secondary education by introducing knowledge and skills that may prepare students for remunerative work without the necessary of having to go for higher education was emphasised by various experts and Education Commissions constituted by Government after independence. Keeping the above emphasis in view, vocational education was introduced at the secondary level as early as 1976-77. The National Policy on Education, 1986 accorded high priority to the Vocational Education Programme. Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in 1988. The objectives of the Scheme in essence are:—

(i) to provide diversification of educational opportunities so as to enhance individual employability;

(ii) to reduce mis-match between demand and supply of skilled manpower;